

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9814

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2894

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH POSITION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

REF: MADRID 2839 MADRID 2807 MADRID 2640 MADRID 2214
STATE 78035

1. SUMMARY CALL BY EMBOFFS ON GOS ENERGY COMMISSIONER
LUIS MAGANA APRIL 15 YIELDED HIS AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTS
ON SEVERAL PRESSING NUCLEAR MATTERS. HE SAID THAT NO WORK
ON BUILDING NUCLEAR REACTORS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED AND URGED
THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES CONUINE THEIR CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE PROJECTS. HE IS RESERVING OPINION
ON NEW US NUCLEARPOLICY PENDING FULLER DESCRIPTION EXPECTED
ON OVERALL US ENERGY POLICY TO BE ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT
BEFORE APRIL 20. HE BELIEVES THAT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ
WILL ONLY SPEAK IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY
DURING HIS TRIP TO THE US AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.
OVERALL IMPRESSION FROM HIS REMARKS IS THAT SPAIN WANTS
TO CONTINUE ITS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE US IN
DEVELOPING ITS NUCLEAR ENERGY SYSTEM HOWEVER IT MUST
TAKE INTO CARFUL CONSIDERATION ANY DIFFICULTIES
THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE EMERGING NEW US NUCLEAR
ENERGY POLICY. END SUMMARY.

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2. ECONCOUN AND EMBOFF CALLED ON SPANISH ENERGY
COMMISSIONER LUIS NAGANA APRIL 15 TO DISCUSS SPANISH
REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT STATMENT ON NUCLEAR
ENRGY AND THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CLAIMING GOS IS SUSPENDING
WORK ON NUCLEAR REACTORS BEING BUILT IN SPAIN.
MAGANA SAID HE HAD STUDIED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

BUT IS RESERVING OPINION UNTIL SEVERAL POINTS RAISED
IN THE MESSAGE ARE MADE MORE CLEAR, OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST ARE LIKELY RESULTS OF ASKING US CONGRESS
FOR LEGISLATION ALLOWING US TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR
FUEL AND GUARANTEE DELIVERY TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

3. EMBOFFS CALLED ATTENTION TO INITIAL PART OF
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WHICH SAID US REALIZES THAT
OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT CONCEPTIONS OF WHAT
THEIR NUCLEAR ENRGY REQUIREMENTS MAY BE, AND PURSUED
THIS POINT BY SAYING ACCPETANCE OF THIS SITUATION
PROVIDES BASIS FOR USING PRESENT AND FUTURE NUCLEAR
ENERGY SYSTEMS. MAGANA REPLIED HE HOPED THE
PRESIDENT'S ENERGY POLICY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME
OUT BY APRIL 20 WILL CLARIFY DIRECTION OF US
ENERGY EFFORT AND THUS GIVE MORE SUBSTANCE TO NUCLEAR
OBJECTIVES.

4. EMBOFFS ONCE MORE RAISED SUBJECT OF MANY PRESS
REPORTS THAT SPAIN HAS SUSPENDED WORK ON SEVERAL NUCLEAR
REACTORS NEING BUILT NAFANA REPLIED AS BEFORE
(MADRID 2640) THAT NO PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. HE ADDED THAT US FIRMS IN
PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS FOR NEW PROJECTS SUCH
AS SAYAGO SHOOULD GO AHEAD WITH THEIR EFFORTS. HE SAID
THAT, OF COURSE PROJECTS FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD WOULD
BE RECONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF UNFOLDING US NUCLEAR
POLICY, FOR XAMPLY THE REGODOLA PROJECT WHICH IS
OPEN FOR BIDS NOW, NAGANA ALSO SAID SPAIN IS PLANNING
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TO DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES OF EQUIPMENT AND FUEL, BUT
THAT HE EXPECTS US TO CONTINUE TO BE MAIN SUPPLIER.

5. EMBOFFS ASKED IF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ WOULD DISCUSS
NUCLEAR ENERGY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE US AT THE END
OF THIS MONTH. NAGANA SAID HE WAS SURE HE WOULD, BUT IN
HIS OPINION ONLY INGENERAL TERMS. HE ADDED THAT HE
HAD OFFERED TO PREPARE A REPORT ON ENERGY FOR THE PRIME
MINISTER'S VISIT BUT SO FAR IT HAD NOT BEEN REQUESTED.

6. NAGANA TURNED DISCUSSION TO INTERNATIONAL SCENE
BY FIRST ASKING IF RUMORS HE HAD HEARD WERE TRUE THAT
THE US HAD REACHED A "CONFIDENTIAL" AGREEMENT WITH NUCLEAR
SUPPLIER NATIONS OTHER THAN FRANCE ON THE USE OF RE-
PROCESSING AND FAST BREEDER REACTORS. EMBOFFS SAID
THEY KNEW OF NO SUCH AGREEMENT BU ADDED THAT THEY
UNDERSTOOD US FUTURE HOPES TO BE TO OBTAIN AN INTER
NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING ON THIS ISSUE. MAGANA THEN
ASKED IF WE KNEW ABOUT AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN

WESTINGHOUSE AND FRAMATOM (FRANCE) FOR JOINT WORK ON
A FAST BREEDER REACTOR IN FRANCE. EMBOFFS REPLIED
THAT THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THIS AGREEMENT.

7. COMMENT: AS COULD BE EXPECTED MAGANA AS WELL AS
MOST SPANISH ENRGY INTERESTS. IS HOLDIN OFF FOR
ING A FINAL OPINION ON THE NEW US NUCLEAR STANCE UNTIL
OVERALL US ENERGY POLICY IS ANNOUNCED. HIS REAFFIRMATION
THAT NO WORK HAS BEEN SUSPENDED ON NUCLEAR REACTORS
BEING BUILT WAS STENGTHENED BY HIS SUGGESTION THAT US
FIRMS MOVE FORWARD ON NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
NEW CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING REACTORS. HIS COMMENT THAT
SPAIN NEEDS TO DIVERSIFY ITS SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT
AND FUELS A COMMENT THAT HE HAD ALSO MADE TEN
DAYS AGO AND IN LINE WITH OUR OWN INTERESTS THAT SPAIN
NOT BE DEPNEDENT ON THE US ALONE. FROM MAGANA'S
COMMENTS IT CAN BE SSUMED ENRGY DURING HIS WAHINGTON VISIT
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WILL BE CURSORY. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION FROM THIS COM
VERSATION IS THAT SPAIN WANTS TO CONTUINE ITS CLOSE COOP-
RATION WITH THE US IN ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND IS WILLING
TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT COURSE THE US AKES
BEFORE MAKING ANY BASIC CHANGES IN THIS RELATIONSIP. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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